

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 10, 2020

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, Senators Hill, Winder, Vick, Anthon, Souza, Stennett, and Buckner-Webb

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairwoman Lodge** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:02 a.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT** of Senator Chuck Winder to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board.

Chairwoman Lodge introduced Senator Chuck Winder, who has been a member of the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board (Board) since his appointment in 2009. **Senator Winder** said he is responsible for managing policy and hiring managers for the funds. In the years that he has served, the fund has seen significant growth and has doubled in benefits for the agencies.

In response to questions asked from Senators Vick and Souza, and Vice Chairman Harris, **Senator Winder** responded that the Endowment Fund provides benefits for schools, correctional facilities, hospitals, and some funds that are part of the mediation of the super fund site in Kootenai County. He said the strength of the fund comes from the exceptional work of the key players, staff and consultants and that their efforts have been instrumental in the significant growth of the fund.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT** of M. Dean Buffington to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board.

Chairwoman Lodge introduced M. Dean Buffington and asked him to introduce the other members in attendance. **Mr. Buffington** introduced Chris Anton, Manager of Investments and Chris Halvorson, an investment officer.

Mr. Buffington stated he has been on the Board since 2001, and has served as the Chairman since 2003. His position is to oversee the staff. **Mr. Buffington**, a registered investment advisor licensed in Idaho for 50 years, stated that there is no conflict of interest. His firm handles money for individuals and does not manage institutional investments. He discussed the responsibilities of the Board, how they manage the funds for maximum growth, and that they have established reserve accounts for each endowment to maintain stability. The current goal is to have a six-year reserve for the funds.

PASSED THE GAVEL: **Chairwoman Lodge** announced the Committee will vote on the gubernatorial appointments at the next meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 and passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Harris to conduct the rules review.

DOCKET NO. 40-0101-1900 **OMNIBUS PENDING RULE 45.01.01 Rules of the Idaho Human Rights Commission**, Michael Faison, Director.

Vice Chairman Harris introduced Michael Faison, Executive Director, Idaho Commission on the Arts, to present **Docket No. 40-0101-1900**. **Mr. Faison** said there was only one chapter of rules and explained their process in following the Red Tape Reduction Act. He said they eliminated 14 out of 18 pages of rules, went from 8,500 words to 1,700 words, amounting to an 80 percent reduction. They also removed 99 restrictive terms.

Mr. Faison indicated that he was very pleased with the process to make the Rules much less cumbersome and prohibitive. In working throughout the state, they received unanimous approval of the reductions. He asked for support for **Docket No. 40-0101-1900**.

MOTION:

Senator Souza moved to approve **Docket No. 40-0101-1900**. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
45-010-1900**

Docket No. 45-010-1900 was rescheduled for Monday, January 13, 2020.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Harris passed the gavel back to Chairwoman Lodge.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Senator Lodge, Chair

Twyla Melton, Secretary

Denise B. McNeil
Assistant to the Assistant Majority
Leader